

Springerville Town Council
Minutes
October 20, 2010
6:00 p.m.

Council: Eric Baca Mayor, Dan Muth Vice Mayor, Connie Hunt, Susan Silva and Ron Thebeau

Staff: Steve West Town Manager, Val Cordova Town Clerk, Mike Nuttall Chief of Police, Larisa Bogardus Community Development.

Public: Planning & Zoning commission: Kevin Burk, Ron Cavanaugh, and Francis Hutton.

1. Mayor Baca called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
2. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Dan Muth
3. Public Participation:

Francis Hutton addressed the council saying she is a resident in east Springerville. Ms. Hutton was very upset over the rising sewer rates. She said she didn't mind getting the first raise but when she had a 2nd raise the following month she got very upset. She said she's 90 years old and can't handle things like this and didn't know what to do. She explained she lives on a small social security pension and has had to give up some of her insurance to pay bills and is going to have to give up her life alert. She apologized to the council for the letter she wrote in case she said anything she shouldn't have. She said she lives on a meager budget and doesn't buy anything she doesn't have to. She and her husband hooked up to the city sewer when they didn't have to so they could help out the city.

Mayor Baca thanked her for coming stating that she's not the first person to complain to him. He explained that the water increases were adopted a couple of years ago to maintain the services. He said the council needs to find ways to help people such as Mrs. Hutton on fixed incomes especially if they keep these rates the same. He suggested looking at implementing the voluntary round-up on water bills to help assist some of the people living on fixed incomes.

Town Manager West explained we've had several complaints about the increases. People on fixed incomes have been hit the hardest by the economic crunch. He personally feels there's ways we can handle this and still perform. He asked Mrs. Hutton if she had attempted to get assistance with her utilities at the senior center. We have a challenge to help people like Mrs. Hutton and said he would be the first to pay \$10.00 extra on his bill to help people like Mrs. Hutton. We are trying to mold this back so it's not so painful.

Mayor Baca told Mr. Hutton he would personally go with her to the senior center to assist her with getting utility assistance and asked her for a phone number. He suggested possibly asking people to add a dollar to their water bills.

Councilmember Silva commented that there are also people in their prime working years out of a job who are also struggling to pay the high rates.

Councilmember Thebeau said he personally would like to know how the rates are structured without being handed a huge volume of paper so he can explain it to his constituents. He said he would like to have a simplified version and wants the finance director to explain it.

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Mayor Baca asked that this issue be placed on the November 3rd agenda and have Karen present to explain the formula. It was the consensus of the council to have her present to explain.

4. Manager, Council and Chamber Reports:

Town Manager West reported the Town is having the Trick or Treat on Main Street again this year on Saturday the October 30th and asked for volunteers from the council.

He advised the council we need one member to sit on the Municipal Property Corporation and asked them to make recommendations. Bob Butler a private individual is putting together ideas on providing University services for this area and would like to 15 minutes to present to the council. The CDBG grant is coming up at the next meeting to hear ideas for projects. Phelps Wilkins will also be providing an update on the school at the second meeting in November.

Manager West that the current construction company under suspension until we do our own test on asphalt to see if we can make this work. If it works for us it should work form them.

Councilmember Thebeau said he'd been at the airport and walked the length of the runway and didn't see any weak asphalt.

Mr. West explained that he was looking at the true and leveling course. They did 6 different test strips and once it doesn't work it's taken up. If we end up using that this winter, we'll bevel that and use it as the runway this winter.

Councilmember Hunt asked if they could get information on what projects qualify for CDBG. The council members were provided a list.

Councilmember Hunt reminded the council that during the last meeting they discussed having the Tourism Tax Committee meet with them and asked if it was possible. She asked if it was possible for a councilmember be a liaison on the committee.

Mr. West suggested that the council revisit some of the policies with the Tourism Tax and have a workshop prior to a council meeting.

Councilmember Muth reported the Planning and Zoning met last week and have opened discussions on the Master Plan.

5. Consent Items

- a. Consider approval of the October 6, 2010 council meeting minutes.
- b. Consider ratification and approval of accounts payable for the month of September, 2010.

Dan Muth/Susan Silva motion to approve consent items 5a through 5b.

Councilman Thebeau said he didn't receive the register in his packet and had some questions. He said he would talk to the finance director. He questioned a couple of vendors listed on the register i.e. Nite Lites, Chamber of Commerce. USI Southwest and commented on Mead Publishing.

Mr. West answered his inquiry of these vendors.

Vote:	Ayes:	Eric Baca
		Dan Muth
		Connie Hunt
		Susan Silva
		Ron Thebeau

6. New Business: None

7. Proclamation: Consider designating the month of October 2010 as Community Planning month and the presentation of Certificates of Appreciation to the Planning and Zoning Commission.

Susan Silva/Dan Muth motion to designate October 2010 as Community Planning month and present Certificates of Appreciation.

Ms. Bogardus said this is initiated by the American Planning Association which includes national bodies interested in land use. This doesn't commit the town to anything but recognizes the people in our community especially the Planning and Zoning Committee who work really hard and thank them for the hard work they do.

Vote:	Ayes:	Eric Baca Dan Muth Connie Hunt Susan Silva
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	Nay:	Ron Thebeau
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"Certificates of Appreciation" were presented to Kevin Burk, and Ron Cavanaugh. by Mayor Baca and acknowledged Robert McKenzie, Phil Hanson, Jr., and Gary Deery who were not present tonight.

8. Resolution 2010-R014: Discussion and action regarding Adopting Resolution 2010-R014 declaring October 25-29, 2010 as Arizona Cities and Towns Week.

Dan Muth/Susan Silva motion to adopt Resolution 2010-R014 declaring October 25-29th 2010 as Cities & Towns Week. .

Mayor Baca read: Now therefore be it resolved that the town of Springerville joins with the League of Arizona Cities and Towns and fellow municipalities across the state of Arizona in declaring October 25-29, 2010, Arizona Cities & Towns Week.

Vote:	Ayes:	Eric Baca Dan Muth Connie Hunt Susan Silva
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	Nay:	Ron Thebeau
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9. Ordinance 2010-004: 1st reading and discussion of Ordinance 2010-004 amending the Town Code to add regulations for the use of fireworks.

Ordinance read by Mayor Baca "An Ordinance of the Mayor and Council of the Town of Springerville, Arizona, amending the Town Code Chapter 9.28 "Weapons and Explosives Section 9.28.010 Explosives" by adding regulations for the use of Fireworks.

Mr. West explained that on December 1, 2010 this law becomes effective and we want to have some safeguards in place to allow us regulate them if there should be a dry year. This will also allow us to put fees in place on vendors.

The Council questioned the time frame for the use of fireworks and how the fee for the sales were determined and asked about extending

Mr. West said we could change the verbiage to reflect the usage of fireworks during the holiday period.

The council questioned the red flag policy asking who sets the policy for the red flag alert and if some redundancy could be built in. The concern is that there wouldn't be a fire chief or majority of council members present to post the red flag.

Mr. West called attention to the hours of use for New Year's Eve listed on the ordinance as incorrect and he would make that change and change the time frame for the 4th of July to allow people to use fireworks the week before and after. He suggested trying this out the for next year and see what kind of complaints issue we have.

Councilmember Hunt questioned the liability fees and if the fee was enough to cover emergency response.

Mr. West explained this was per incident and this was only to recoup some of the costs. He cautioned the council about making this to restrictive it and take all the fun out of it.

10. Fee Schedule: Discussion and action regarding setting a fee for a permit for the sale of fireworks.

Mr. West said staff needs direction from the council on setting a fee to sell fireworks. This will be an annual permit. Some communities are selling the permits from 300 – 500 per event

Ron Thebeau/Dan Muth motion to direct staff to add a fee for the sale of fireworks to the fee schedule.

Councilman Thebeau said he has experience in the area of selling fireworks due to family selling them for years. He said he rarely agrees with fees in government but this is a legitimate way to generate revenue. When fees were first established for fireworks permits they started out at \$100 and now they are \$3,000. This is a successful business and a great way to generate revenue and suggested selling the permits for \$500.

Mr. West suggested they set the permitting fee at \$500 and give it a year to see if they have to lower the fee.

Ron Thebeau/Dan Muth amended his motion to charge a \$500 fee for the fireworks permits.

Vote:	Ayes:	Eric Baca
		Dan Muth
		Connie Hunt
		Susan Silva
		Ron Thebeau

11. Executive Session – removed from the agenda

12. Adjournment:

Dan Muth/Connie Hunt motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:16p.m.

Vote:	Ayes:	Eric Baca
		Dan Muth
		Connie Hunt
		Susan Silva
		Ron Thebeau

Eric Baca, Mayor

ATTEST:

Town Clerk

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I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Springerville Town Council in regular session on Wednesday, October 20, 2010. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and a quorum was present.

Dated this 25th day of October, 2010

Town Clerk